The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

July 2014 Volume 10, Issue 6 © 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma

From the Editor

ARRL Field Day 2014 is in the logbook. Held again this year at the RCT Clubhouse, W7DK was on the air as a class 4-E Station. (4 transmitters, using emergency power). Over 20 operators successfully generated approximately 1250 contacts on SSB, CW, and Digital modes across all available bands. Our score is still being tabulated, but will exceed 1700 points and is significantly higher than last year.

Especially noteworthy were the number of "new" operators this year. New being their first Field Day operating the hardware. It certainly bodes well for a large pool of experienced hams to participate in next year's Field Day, when by all accounts we'll be back in the field under more primitive conditions.

Under the coordination of Mike W7GHW, the logistics and functionality of the event worked nearly flawlessly. Radios and antennas performed as expected, transitioning to generator power was seamlessly accomplished, and mighty fine food and beverages were available.

Lots of hard work by many club members before, during, and after the event were the key to its success. Special thanks to Rich KR7W, Steve AD7VL, Randy WB4SPB, Paul W7PFU, Jan K7HTU, and Bruce WE7P. Dozens of other pairs of hands contributed in many ways - helping to move chairs and tables, pitching tents, policing the area, making coffee, building patch panels, and all of the other big and little things that were done to make Field Day 2014 great. A tip of the old editor's hat to everyone involved, even if you didn't get on the air, your participation was important.

So, take a deep breath, build up your appetite, and get ready for the annual W7DK Picnic to be held sometime in August. Firm date and location to be determined, but rumor has it that there will be a hidden transmitter hunt in conjunction with the picnic..

73 de Mike W7MWF

In This Month's Issue

Minutes and Meeting Highlights	Page 2
Who Is That Ham?	Page 6
Wednesday Workshop Photos	Page 7
FD2014 Pictorial Essay	Page 8
Members Wallpaper	Page 11
The Fine Print	Page 12

Board of Directors Meeting
4 June 2014 Minutes

The 4 June 2014 Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Board Member	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member	Nick Winter K7MO
Board Member	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member	Mike Elwell W7GHW

There were 12 names on the attendance roster which is attached to the original copy of these minutes

Quorum: Yes

The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ.

Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes of the 7 May 2014 Board Meeting as coordinated was made, seconded and passed.

HEALTH AND WELFARE:

Jim Nelson W7PYV has become a Silent Key.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
QEX Journal
Electric Radio
Contest Journal
Memberships

TREASURER'S REPORT: No Treasurer's report was available.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership:

Membership is currently 303 members

Training:

Next Technician Class June 7/8

Field Day: Mike Elwell W7GHW

Mike reported that things are moving along smoothly and most of the prep work has been completed. The ARRL Field Day Locater info has been submitted and published. Mike distributed a proposed press release which was reviewed and suggestions for modifications made. Nick K7MO will make contact with a radio station for a PSA (Public Service Announcement).

Mike requested a volunteer to oversee the radio status before Field Day and to help monitor radio status during Field Day. Randy said he would help take care of it. Some testing for internal station interference is continuing and will be completed before field day. It was reiterated that we will not be having a dedicated GOTA station this year.

Information Technology: Randy Myers WB4SBP

Classroom computer repaired by Randy with power supply donated by Mike W7MWF

Randy reported that a suitable replacement computer for use with the IRLP could be built for about $250-300 dollars.

It was moved and seconded to authorize the expenditure of up to $325 for components for a new computer to be purchased and assembled by Randy. Motion passed.

HF Operations:

The Club's Beam Antenna Rotor: Bruce W7EP

Bruce WE7P reported that the repaired rotor seems to be functioning fairly well, but the meter needle sometimes sticks. It will be evaluated for cause.

HF Room Patch Panel Project: **Al N7OMS**

All parts for the panel have been acquired and the panels are being drilled and milled by KE7PVZ. Estimated time for completion is before field day.

Repeaters: Nick K7MO

Nick reported that the committee had met and are reviewing any issues associated with the repeaters. A trip is planned to Crawford Mountain and other repeater sites to install locks on cabinets and to post documentation.

On behalf of the committee, Nick requested that 2 drawers of a filing cabinet be dedicated to the repeater committee for storage of documents, manuals, and

small parts. Investigation of the Property Management File Cabinet reveals that at least one drawer can probably be made available, and possibly another drawer in that cabinet or another cabinet can be cleared out also.

Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status – Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status – Operational

IRLP (147.28 Repeater) Operational

Facilities Management:

Upstairs Carpet: Bruce WE7P reported that the upstairs landing has been cleared of all equipment and furniture and is ready for the repair crew. Mike W7XTZ has contacted the flooring company and will continue to coordinate with Bruce for scheduling of repairs.

Property Management:

RCT riding lawnmower: The lawnmower has been taken to the residence of Al AC7BU for preparation to sell. It is reported that Al has installed the new belt and has managed to get the mower running. A new battery may be needed. The mower will be listed on Craig's List and BooKoo in the near future. By email, Frank AC7JY requested authorization for purchase of a new battery if needed. It was moved and seconded to authorize up to $40.00 if it is determined that a battery must be purchased to consummate a sale.

A copy of the solicitation submitted by Property Manager AC7JY is attached to these minutes

July 9 General Membership Meeting
7:30 pm @ Library Admin Building
112th and Waller Road

Presentation Topic
10-Meter Introduction, Tips & Tidbits
Presented by Dave W7UUU
Refreshments by Anne N7ANN

Property Transfer to PMC: By email Property Manager Frank AC7JY requested authorization to dispose of surplus or donated property: a 30' Rohn tower assembly, 2 Icom IC-32A handheld radios, an Icom IC-T81A handheld radio, and a vintage US Navy BO-1 Radar/IFF Transmitter/Receiver. ***Moved and seconded to transfer the property to PMT for disposition to be determined. Motion carried.***

Museum: **Rich KR7W**

No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Workshop Project

The June 25 Workshop is will be a presentation regarding internet-based resources for amateur radio operators and aficionados.

It was suggested that a recap of the results of the member survey of essential topics be published in The Bark. Editor Mike W7MWF will follow up on this.

NEW BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

RCT IRLP Operations: Bob N7NCP and Bruce WB7EC expressed concerns that info for the use of IRLP seems inconsistent or non-existent. Nick and Randy reported that development of documentation is underway concurrent with the installation of the new IRLP computer and upgraded software, and will be made available as soon as possible.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

SEAPAC ARRL Convention, 6-8 June, Seaside Oregon

The meeting was adjourned at 20:20

the Radio Club of Tacoma

Your Radio Club
Needs your help

RCT needs donations....
of Amateur Radio Equipment

General Membership Meeting
11 June 2014 Meeting Notes

The 11 June 2014 General Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building at Waller Road and 112th Street. .

Vice President Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary	Larry Watson KD4VOM
Board	Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board	Nick Winter K7MO
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Mike Elwell W7GHW

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached to the original copy of these minutes. There were 31 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Mike W7XTZ

INTRODUCTIONS: Guest welcoming and self -introductions were completed. Paul Matney reported his call has changed to W7PFU.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY: Larry reported that Charles Wade Palmer WA7OHG became a Silent Key on 14 May 2014; and Lawrence S Comber KD7ZBP became a Silent Key on 28 May 2014

Correspondence:

Newsletters
Utility Bills
Bank Statements
Membership Renewals
Newsletters and Journals
Advanced Stream broadband invoice
UPSP PO Box rental invoice

The Field Day Pig was circulated to collect donations for Field Day operations.

Meeting Refreshments: Anne Ellison N7ANN provided an outstanding array refreshments and snacks.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George K7GRS provided a membership update.

VE REPORT: Leonard Burstiner KA7NWF provided the following VE report for VE coordinator John Clarke AC7WW

Tuesday, June 10th 2014 we had 15 candidates at the Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse. Seven VE's graded 30 exams. Eleven new Technicians joined the ranks of the Amateur Radio Service, two candidates upgraded to General, one candidate failed to earn an upgrade, and one candidate did not earn an initial license.

One of the new Technicians is ten years old and he really had a grin on his face when he was told he passed his exam. We had candidates from Mercer Island, Federal Way, Port Orchard, Gig Harbor, Edmonds, Fremont California and of course Tacoma. Thanks to Stephen AD7AB for his Technician Class.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Steve, AD7VL	Leonard, KA7NWF
Jan, K7HTU	Jon, AD7AW
Rich, KK7VH	Stephen, AD7AB

The next monthly scheduled testing session will be Tuesday July 8, 2014.

Training: The next Technician's class is pending preparation to accommodate the new ARRL Technician's manual and question pool update.

HF Station: No report

Facilities: **Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ** reports he is waiting for the carpet person to return his calls.

Field Day: **Mike W7GHW** provided an update on plans for this year's Field Day which will be held again at the Clubhouse. **OllieAD7CC** is heading up the tear down and cleanup crew, while **Randy WB4SBP** is handling radio and logging operations.

Randy WB4SBP pointed out the valuable opportunities for members to learn to operate the club's equipment, use the logging software in a hospitable environment and advised that next year the Club is planning to return to the field for Field Day.

PROGRAM: Dave Ellison W7UUU

Baofeng UV-5R and similar radios – features, operations and programming

Dave provided a comprehensive presentation on the Baofeng and similar Chinese manufactured radios, explaining their Software Defined Radio architecture and operations. He addressed the pronunciation of their titles, as well as a description of the two common programming software sets; CHIRP and the RT Systems, addressing the pros, cons together with programming cable chip and driver issues.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RCT Workshops: Randy WB4SBP announced that the June 25th workshop will address topics related to using the internet in support of Amateur Radio, with several short sessions and demonstrations.

W7HSA 90th Birthday: **Linda AB7YL** invited members to attend her father's 90th birthday on June 25th from 6 to 8 pm at the Celebration Lutheran Church in Puyallup. No gifts please and cards are welcome.

Membership Booklet: **George K7GRS** noted that he has updated and added missing data to the Booklet distributed last month, and plans are underway to maintain and make available for download from the W7DK.org website.

FCC Rulemaking: **Larry KD4VOM** reported on recent rulemaking easing the requirements for General and Extra class licensees whose licenses have expired to gain reinstatement by completing the Technician's examination element 2.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: None Reported

SHOW AND TELL:

Dave W7UUU circulated several Baofeng HT radios, programming cables and his post-it noted instruction manual in support of the program presentation. He also provided DVD's with the presentation and related files to support radio programming

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None Reported

DOOR PRIZES:

There were several door prizes; Ray Brassard KE7BZD donated an ARRL Centennial Coin which was won by Al Ferguson N7OMS. Leonard KA7NWF provided several led flashlights which went to Mike K7STO; Dave W7UUU; Steve AD7VL; Paul W7PFU; Randy WB4SBP; Jan K7HTU and Bob AD7WU.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm

Mark Your Calendars!

Sept 20-21 at the Clubhouse

Salmon Run 2014

The RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA needs your donations.

DONATIONS PLAY A BIG PART IN FUNDING THE OPERATION OF RCT. IF YOU HAVE UNWANTED OR UNNEEDED AMATEUR RADIO OR RELATED EQUIPMENT. PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT TO THE CLUB

If you have something to donate please contact Frank Palmer AC7JY, Property Manager

WHO *IS* THAT HAM?

Getting to know our members... part of a series of sketches of randomly-picked RCT members.

Bob Hewlett, N7NCP was born in Lansing, MI. Just out of high school, where he participated in track and wrestling, Bob turned to wrangling cattle in eastern Washington, out of Wauconda. His family moved to the SeaTac area in 1938.

Sometime later, while hosting a BLM site for RV'ers in the desert area of Courtsite, Arizona, Bob ran into a man working a mineral claim. It was at this point that Bob was introduced to the world of amateur radio operating, as the Amateur Extra's van was well-equipped with ham gear -- quickly piquing Bob's interest. His new elmer loaned Bob a 2-meter radio and pushed Bob to achieve the Morse code required for his Novice ticket exam, which he soon passed in a Yuma, AZ test session. Tech Plus came a bit later.

Bob joined the Navy in 1950, serving aboard the aircraft carrier Essex and becoming a gunnery instructor at the Whidbey Island Naval Base. Following that four-year stint, Bob spent 20 years employed by Boeing, rising from riveter to methods analyst, 10 years as supervisor.

Bob met Greta in 1959 when she was working as a reservationist for American Airlines. Bob and Greta have three children and two grandchildren.

Loving the outdoors, Bob became a member of the Tacoma Mountaineers, served in local leadership and eventually climbed all of the cabin peaks while spending eighteen years in the National Park Service. Rounding out his career, he worked another twelve years for the Weyerhauser corporation in their housing development division building roads, trails and housing plats. Bob has personally built three log cabins, one being a 60-log 18' x 20' cabin in Nisqually Park.

Bob is a rag-chewer and DXer. Of the many radios owned over the years, his favorite is an Icom 2820. The antenna that gets the most use is his dual-bander. He is very active on 2 meters, regularly on HF, sometimes on 6 meters, and has been a Radio Club of Tacoma member for 25 years.

Editor's note - Thanks to Membership Chairman George K7GRS for composing, photographing, and submitting this first in the series of what we hope to be an ongoing feature of The Loggers' Bark.

"Using the internet to enhance your ham radio experience"

4th Wednesday Workshop June 25, 2014

Hosted by Randy WB4SPB, David W7HTJ & Mike W7MWF

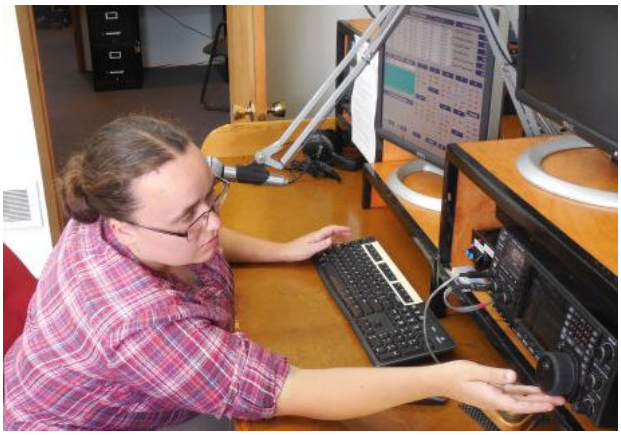
Workshop outline and handouts can be downloaded for reference from the Club website:
http://w7dk.org/images/rct_pdf/RCT4W140625.pdf

In the photo to the left, attendees interact with Randy as he introduces various Internet sites that can be useful to amateur radio operators both new and old, experienced or just starting out.

Pictured right, Randy demonstrates how to customize your profile on QRZ.com, while the next presenter, David W7HTJ is on deck to demonstrate various on-line antenna calculators and dipole construction instructions.

Field Day 2014

A photo essay of activities at the Radio Club of Tacoma Clubhouse June 28-29, 2014



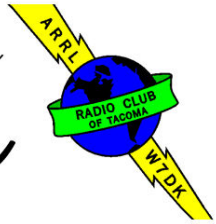
CHAMPION
9000
7000
WIRELESS

Pictured above is out tent.
Pictured right is NOT our tent and antenna.

POSTCARDS FROM THE EDGE

This month I've chosen to display the qsl cards of a few of our members whose artwork features Mt. Rainier as the background.
Thanks to Paul (now W7PFU) ,Lorraine, and Bruce.
All club members are invited and encouraged to contribute cards, photos, stories, opinions, observations, or other tidbits for publication in The Bark. Either email them to me as a jpg file, or bring them by the clubhouse on a Saturday and I'll scan them. For textual contributions, MSWord, PDF, RTF or plain text files are suitable.

The Radio Club of Tacoma's Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark **is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.**

Club Officers

President: Gary McAdams WG7X 253-984-0868 email to wg7x @ w7dk.org
Vice Pres: Mike Mikuchonis email to w7xtz @ w7dk.org
Secretary: Larry Watson KD4VOM email to kd4vom @ w7dk.org
Treasurer: Bob Purdom AD7LJ email to ad7lj @ w7dk.org

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

James Mendenhall KE6WHN email to ke6whn @ w7dk.org
Nick Winter K7MO email to k7mo @ w7dk.org
Bruce Hanson WE7P email to we7p @ w7dk.org
Mike Elwell W7GHW email to w7ghw@w7dk.org
Mike Finnie W7MWF email to w7mwf@w7dk.org

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor "Stop the Presses!!" Mike Finnie, W7MWF email to w7dk-news @ earthlink.net
Proofreader Extraordinaire "Don't rely on SpellChecker!" Bob Jamison KE7WPK
Contributors: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma…
Send articles to: w7dk-news @ earthlink.net or Bark, 1506 N Stevens St, Tacoma, WA 98406

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org.

Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark. If a credit line is included in the article, please seek permission from the original writer also.

Membership Info: **FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is $30 per calendar year. $25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.**

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5
North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3

Remember - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website w7dk.org. Be sure to enroll as a member to see all the info.

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

W7DK

Proudly celebrating
97 years
of Amateur Radio Service
to
Pierce County and the
Pacific Northwest

Upcoming RCT Events

REGULAR EVENTS

Club Meetings: Second Wednesday of the month at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Workshops: Fourth Wednesday of the month at the Clubhouse, 1249 So. Washington St, Tacoma. A variety of training and educational events will be conducted.

Board Meeting: First Wednesday of the month at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend .

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz .

SPECIAL EVENTS

Annual Picnic: Sometime in August, date and location to be determined

Salmon Run 2014: September 20-21 @ the RCT Clubhouse .Annual Washington State QSO Party and Club Fundraiser.